

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 121449

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TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 121449

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS:EAID, US, JO
SUBJ : IBRD ROLE IN JORDAN
REFERENCE: AMMAN 3287

1. REFTEL IMPLIES SOME GOJ MISUNDERSTANDING REGARDING
POSSIBLE EXPANDED JORDAN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM. MUNIR
BENJENK OF IBRD CONFIRMED TO US TODAY HIS UNDERSTANDING
THAT IBRD WAS AWAITING SPECIFIC PROPOSAL FROM JORDAN
WHICH WAS TO BE PULLED TOGETHER UPON CP'S RETURN TO AMMAN.
BENJENK SAID THAT THERE WAS NOT ANY AGREEMENT TO SEND IBRD
REPRESENTATIVE TO AMMAN PRIOR TO RECEIPT OF SUCH PROPOSAL,
AND THAT MCNAMARA SAID THE CP HAD NOT RAISED THE QUESTION
IN THEIR MEETING.

2. BENJENK ALSO SAID M-NAMARA SENT LETTER TO CP ON JUNE 3
INDICATING IBRD'S WILLINGNESS TO HELP IN SEEKING FINANCING
FROM POTENTIAL DONORS WHEN CONCRETE PROPOSAL HAS BEEN
PRESENTED TO THE BANK. LETTER MAKES NO MENTION OF PRIOR
IBRD VISIT OR IBRD ROLE IN FORMULATING PROPOSAL. SUGGEST
YOU MAKE NO REFERENCE TO THIS LETTER AT THIS TIME, HOWEVER,
SINCE IT MAY NOT BE RECEIVED IN AMMAN FOR SEVERAL DAYS,
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PAGE 02 STATE 121449

BUT IT SHOULD HELP TO CLARIFY IBRD'S POSITION.

3. WE ALSO WERE UNDER IMPRESSION FROM HANNAH ODEH AND AHMED MANGO THAT JORDAN WOULD BEGIN WORKING ON PROPOSAL

IMMEDIATELY UPON THEIR RETURN. NOOTER STATED HE WOULD BE TIED UP DURING ENTIRE MONTH OF JUNE IN CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS BUT OFFERED TO TRAVEL TO AMMAN, POSSIBLY IN JULY, IF IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO DISCUSS PROPOSAL WITH US PRIOR TO FORMAL PRESENTATION TO IBRD. HOWEVER, THIS WAS ON ASSUMPTION THAT JORDANIANS WOULD ALREADY HAVE MADE SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS IN PULLING PROPOSAL TOGETHER SO THAT SPECIFIC ISSUES COULD BE DISCUSSED.

4. IBRD AND/OR NOOTER VISIT WOULD NOT APPEAR TO BE USEFUL AT LEAST UNTIL JORDAN HAS COMPLETED SOME ADDITIONAL STAFF WORK. NOOTER VISIT IS FLEXIBLE AND COULD BE DONE AT ANY TIME CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS ARE COMPLETED. ALSO, WE UNDERSTAND MAURICE BART OF IBRD TENTATIVELY PLANS TO VISIT JORDAN JULY 10-13 AND COULD REVIEW PROPOSAL AT THAT TIME IF JORDAN SO REQUESTS. NOOTER COULD COME AT SAME TIME IF CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS PERMIT. HOWEVER, BELIEVE IT WOULD NOT ADVANCE PROGRESS ON PROPOSAL VERY MUCH IF JORDANIANS HAVE NOT DONE THEIR HOMEWORK FIRST.

5. IN SUMMARY, WE SUGGEST YOU ENCOURAGE JORDANIANS TO PROCEED TO PULL PROPOSAL TOGETHER, MAKING AS MUCH PROGRESS AS POSSIBLE PRIOR TO JULY 10 AND IDENTIFYING KEY ISSUES WHICH COULD BE USEFULLY DISCUSSED. WE WOULD ENCOURAGE MAXIMUM INVOLVEMENT OF SIMMONS IN PLANNING PROCESS AND WOULD OF COURSE BE GLAD TO COMMENT ON SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES BY CABLE AS THEY ARISE. TENTATIVELY, WE CAN AIM FOR NOOTER VISIT AROUND JULY 10, TIMED TO COINCIDE WITH BART VISIT IF JORDANIANS CAN HAVE DRAFT PROPOSAL TO REVIEW BY THAT TIME. KISSINGER

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